



# ***Park County Sheriff's Office***



## **2018 Annual Report**

**Scott A. Steward, Sheriff**

***"Service, Safety, Security"***





***A MESSAGE FROM  
SHERIFF SCOTT A. STEWARD***



To the citizens of Park County:

The men and women of the Park County Sheriff's Office continually face new and defining challenges as they strive to provide service, safety and security for our citizens. The year 2018 was no exception. And even though our functional activity was down from 2017, that should be viewed as a positive since we, as a law enforcement agency received fewer calls for our services. We did however investigate a homicide on the Northfork as well as two fatal motor vehicle crashes. And as always, our personnel continued to perform at an exceptionally high level with compassion, professionalism and commitment.

Our personnel takes great pride in their work and the countless hours spent serving this community. Our deputies responded to an average of 688 incidents each over the year; our dispatchers answered an average of 3,570 calls each; and our detention deputies cared for an average of 54 detainees each day. And let's not forget the civilian staff who process paperwork, handle billing, maintain our supplies, cook, provide medical care for the detainees, and ensure that our officers maintain a state of readiness at all times.

Our Search and Rescue volunteers also performed at an exceptionally high level in 2018, always under difficult circumstances. They rescued a young man from the swollen Shoshone River after he drove his pickup into the river and floated ½ mile downstream. They also rescued a county commissioner after his leg became pinned beneath a 500 lb. boulder near the summit of Crow Peak. And this is just a sampling of their selfless dedication. These volunteers represent the very definition of "giving to the community."

Through all this, our personnel remain committed to our mission to "promote public trust and provide service, safety and security to those we are sworn to serve." In 2019, we will continue our promise to keep you informed regarding criminal investigations, safety programs, community outreach and general information regarding Park County and the activities of your sheriff's office.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Steward  
Sheriff, Park County, Wyoming

# PATROL DIVISION

**MAJOR INCIDENTS** – The year 2018 saw Park County Sheriff’s deputies responding to a homicide on the Northfork as well as two separate fatal motor vehicle crashes. On Sunday, August 5, 2018 at 9:52 p.m., the Park County Sheriff’s 911 Dispatch Center received a report of possible homicide/suicide at 3056 North Fork Highway west of Wapiti. The caller, Mark Klingbeil who resides in Florida, told the dispatcher that his father, Dennis Karl Klingbeil, age 76 had called him and said that he had just shot his wife, Donna Marie Klingbeil, age 75 and then taken numerous pills with the intention of killing himself. The son immediately notified the sheriff’s office. Deputies were dispatched as was an ambulance from Cody Regional Health. Upon arrival, responding units found both victims still alive; Donna suffering from a gunshot wound and Dennis from an apparent overdose. Donna was flown to Billings Clinic Hospital in Billings, Montana where she later died. Dennis was transported by ambulance to Cody Regional Health where he was admitted. He was subsequently released and transported to the Park County Detention Center where he is being held on \$10 million bond pending a jury trial on a charge of first degree murder.



On Saturday, July 7, 2018 at 9:00 p.m., the Park County Sheriff’s 911 Dispatch Center received a report of a motor vehicle crash with injuries on Road XUX (Squaw Creek Road) in Crandall. A deputy was immediately dispatched as was an ambulance from Cody Regional Health and units from the Cody Fire Department. While responding additional information was received that the driver of the vehicle was deceased. Upon arrival responding units did indeed find the driver of the two-seat side-by-side ATV, Maximillian Finney, age 14 from The Woodlands, Texas to be deceased. The investigation revealed that Finney's father, who owns two cabins on Road XUX had sent his son from one cabin to the other at approximately 8:00 p.m. to inform family members staying there that dinner was ready. At approximately 8:30 p.m. passersby discovered Finney pinned underneath the ATV approximately 1/4 mile west of the Crossbow Road (Squaw Creek Ranch Road). Road XUX in this area is gravel surfaced. Evidence indicated that Finney was traveling west at a speed too fast for conditions when he crested a hill and began to slide. He then went off the left or south side of the road and caught the edge causing the vehicle to begin to slide sideways. The vehicle then tipped over landing on Finney. He was not wearing a helmet. Park County Coroner ruled the cause of death to be massive head trauma.

Finally, on September 25, 2018, at 11:05 a.m. the Park County Sheriff's Office 911 Dispatch Center received a report of a single-vehicle rollover crash at 771 Lane 5. Dispatch was further advised that an occupant had been ejected and was lying in the road. A deputy was immediately dispatched as was an ambulance from Powell Valley Healthcare and units from the Powell Fire Department. While units were responding, a Wyoming Highway Patrol trooper who overheard



the dispatch, arrived at the scene and advised that the victim, John A. Strom, age 72 of Cowley was deceased. Upon arrival, the deputy observed a white 2001 F-150 pickup truck upright north of the westbound lane with extensive damage. It appeared that the truck had rolled over and ejected the driver. Through physical evidence at the scene and a witness statement, it was determined

that Strom was eastbound in the 700 block of Lane 5 when he drifted off of the right side of the road onto the shoulder. The shoulder is very narrow at this point and leads to a steep down-grade embankment into an irrigation ditch. Strom overcorrected to his left causing his vehicle to rotate counter clockwise and enter a sideways slide. The vehicle then tripped and rolled three complete revolutions coming to rest on upright just north of the westbound lane. It appeared Strom was ejected out the driver's side window on the second revolution, landing in the middle of the Lane 5. He was not wearing his seatbelt at the time of the crash.

On May 23, 2018, David Eugene Williamson plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter in the death of Shirley Williamson, his wife of 36 years, and was given an 18-20 year sentence for the felony, the maximum. This brought to a close a case that began in 2017.

Williamson was convicted of shooting his wife of 36 years in close proximity during an argument in the bedroom. The voluntary manslaughter charge was downgraded from second degree murder which carries a mandatory minimum 20-year prison term, but the 18-20 year sentence could still see Williamson, currently 65 years old, live out the rest of his life behind bars. The case began on August 26, 2017 at 4:42 am, when the Powell Police Department received a 911 phone call



originating from 956 Lane 11 from a male caller stating that his "wife is dead, send the cops." The caller then hung up. Assets from the Park County Sheriff's Office, Powell Police Department, and

Powell Valley Healthcare Ambulance were immediately dispatched. Upon arrival, deputies made contact with Williamson, who resides at that address. Williamson was calmly sitting on the front porch. When asked what was going on, Williamson replied, "Go inside, you will see. She is in the bedroom." A subsequent search of the residence revealed Williamson's wife lying dead on a bed in the back bedroom with an apparent gunshot wound to the right side of her head.

**PERSONNEL** – During 2018, the patrol division saw one promotion, one additional position, and one reassignment from the detention center as a result of a resignation. Patrol deputies are primarily responsible for providing public safety by maintaining order, responding to emergencies, protecting people and property, enforcing motor vehicle and criminal laws, and promoting good community relations.

On July 8th, Sergeant Mark Hartman was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and was placed in command of the department's Patrol Division. Originally from Findlay, Ohio, Lt. Harman and his family moved to Powell in 1993. He began his career with the Park County Sheriff's Office in February of that year as a patrol deputy. He was promoted to sergeant in charge of the Powell Patrol Division in March of 2012. Lt. Hartman has an Associate's Degree in Law Enforcement from Owens Technical College in Toledo, Ohio. Upon his promotion to lieutenant, Sheriff Steward commented that "the most important thing expected from a commander is to set a good example for those under you at all times and Lt. Hartman certainly does that each and every day." Steward continued, "Deputies watch what their leaders do. You can give them classes and lecture them forever, but it is your personal example they will follow."



On June 15<sup>th</sup>, Sheriff Scott Steward announced the appointment of Deputy Tom Toohey to the patrol division. Deputy Toohey was reassigned from the detention facility as a result of a resignation and will began his new duties on June 25th patrolling out of the Cody District. Deputy Toohey was born in Anchorage, Alaska but grew up in North Branch, Minnesota. He moved to the Cody area in 2011 where he played center and left wing for the Yellowstone Quake from 2011 until 2014. He was employed as a detention deputy with the Park

County Sheriff's Office in August of 2015 and trained as a "range officer" this year. As a range officer, Deputy Toohey is responsible for firearms training for all sheriff's deputies.

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, Sheriff Steward appointed Deputy Clayton Creel to the department's patrol division. Deputy Creel was also reassigned from the detention facility and began his new duties also patrolling out of the Cody District. His reassignment was the result of an added position to the patrol division in the fiscal year 2019. Deputy Creel was born in Georgia but grew up in Wapiti where his family moved when he was 3 years old. He was employed as a detention deputy with the Park County Sheriff's Office in September of 2015. He has attended Northwest College in Powell where he studied law enforcement. Deputy Creel currently resides in Cody and is engaged to be married.

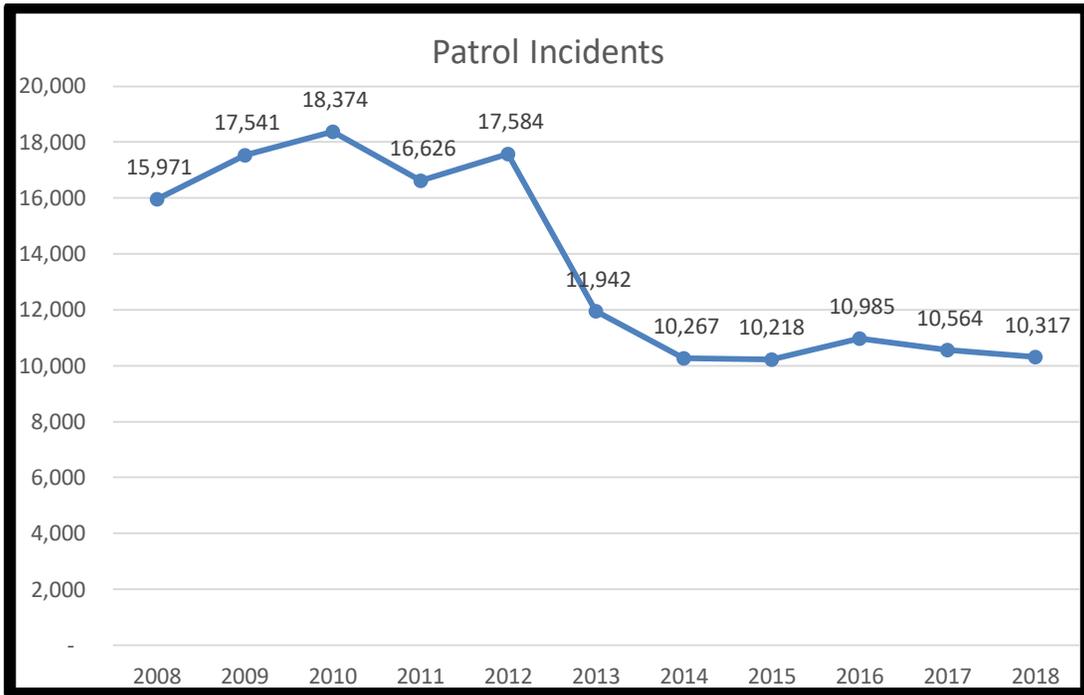


**PATROL ACTIVITY** – In 2018, patrol deputies continued to provide the citizens of Park County the service, safety, and security that they have come to expect from their law enforcement officials. Overall however, patrol activity did see a slight decrease in 2018. Total incidents were down 2%,



case investigations down 3%, and total arrests down 26%. However, the sheriff's office saw a 19% increase in traffic crashes investigated. As a result, deputies took a more aggressive stance in traffic enforcement increasing their traffic stops by 3% in an effort to combat the increase in crashes. In 2018, deputies responded to 10,317 patrol incidents which included 1,413 traffic stops, 262 criminal investigations, 928

non-criminal investigations, 280 felony and misdemeanor arrests, 119 motor vehicle crash investigations, 343 warrant service attempts, 3,203 motor vehicle inspections, 567 animal calls, and 1,609 civil paper services. All of this activity was accomplished by 15 full-time patrol deputies who are responsible for patrolling nearly 7,000 square miles of rural Park County. That equates to an average of 688 incidents per deputy.



## INCIDENTS

Total Patrol Incidents	10,317
Calls for Service Incidents	5,517
Deputy Initiated Incidents	4,800
Traffic Stops	1,413
Business/Building/Vehicle Checks	9
Other Incidents	3,388

## ARRESTS

Total Arrests	280
Misdemeanor Arrests	215
Felony Arrests	65

## WARRANTS

New Warrants Received	914
Warrants Closed	638

## CASE INVESTIGATIONS

Total Case Investigations	1,333
Vehicle Accident Investigations	119
Criminal Investigations	262
Non-Criminal Investigations	946
Unclassified Investigations	6

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## VIN INSPECTIONS

Total VIN Inspections	3,203
VIN Inspection Fees Collected *	\$32,030.00

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## CIVIL SUMMONS

Total Service Attempts	1,609
Total Served	654
Total Attempts with No Service	955
Civil Service Fees Collected *	\$24,810.00

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## CITATIONS

Total Citations Issued	401
Misdemeanor Criminal Citations	113
Traffic Citations	278
Unclassified	10

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\* Fees collected are returned to the county general fund

## PATROL INCIDENTS BY TYPE

INCIDENT TYPE		INCIDENT TYPE	
911 HANG UP CALL	55	MESSAGE DELIVERY	11
ABANDONED VEHICLE	52	MISCELLANEOUS ASSISTANCE	403
ADMINISTRATIVE DUTY	1	MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH	142
ALARM-INTRUSTION/HOLDUP	117	NCIC WARRANT ENTRY	235
AMBULANCE-AIR MEDICAL	1	NOTIFY CITY DEPARTMENTS	28
AMBULANCE-DEPUTY ASSIGNED	14	NUISANCE COMPLAINTS	1
ANIMAL-BITE	17	OPEN DOOR/WINDOW	5
ANIMAL-DECEASED	9	OTHER ACCIDENT	7

ANIMAL-LOST	112	OTHER LAW VIOLATIONS	18
ANIMAL-NOISY	11	PARKING PROBLEM	14
ANIMAL-OTHER	117	PATROL-EXTRA	47
ANIMAL-ON ROADWAY	177	PEDESTRIAN STOP	1
ANIMAL-STRAY	124	PERSON LOST	1
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	564	PHONE RELATED COMPLAINT	5
ASSAULT	13	PRISONER TRANSPORT	8
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	26	PROBATION VIOLATION	1
AUTO BURGLARY	3	PROPERTY DAMAGE	63
BAD CHECKS COMPLAINT	2	PROPERTY FOUND	52
BARWALK	5	PROPERTY LOST	42
BODY FOUND	27	PROTECTION ORDER	7
BUILDING BURGLARY	20	PROWLER	4
COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICES	4	REDDI REPORT	35
CHILD WELFARE	16	ROAD HAZARD/BLOCKAGE	55
CITIZEN/BUSINESS CONTACT	101	RUNAWAY JUVENILE	2
CIVIL ATTEMPTS	1,609	SEARCH AND RESCUE CALL	30
CIVIL DISPUTE	60	SECURITY CHECK	4
CIVIL STANDBY	37	SEXUAL ASSAULT	8
COMPUTER CRIME	1	SEXUAL OFFENDER RECORD	27
CUSTODY DISPUTE	13	SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION	31
DISTURBANCE	29	SEX OFFENDER REPORTING	169
DOMESTIC	43	SMOKING UNDERAGE	2
DRILL/EXERCISE	1	SPECIAL INCIDENT- Undefined	21
DRUGS RELATED	15	STOLEN VEHICLE	6
EXTRA PATROL REQUEST	25	SUICIDE ATTEMPT/THREATS	38
FIRE CALL-DEPUTY ASSIGNED	9	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	133
FIREWORKS COMPLAINT	7	THEFT	48
FLAGDOWN OF DEPUTY	39	THREATS	31
FOLLOWUP INVESTIGATION	78	TRAFFIC COMPLAINT	87
FRAUD RELATED	46	TRAFFIC STOP	1,413
HARASSMENT	22	TRAINING/ INSTRUCTION	20
HOMICIDE	1	TRESPASS COMPLAINT	54
INCORRIGIBLE JUVENILE	17	UNKNOWN CALL TYPE	1
INFORMATIONAL CASE	85	US FOREST SERVICE PATROL	127
INTOXICATED SUBJECT	7	VIN INSPECTIONS	2,675
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	1	WARRANT SERVICE	343
LITTERING	12	WEAPONS OFFENSE	14
MEDICAL PATIENT TRANSFER	1	WELFARE CHECK	117
MENTAL PROBLEM	7	<b>TOTAL PATROL INCIDENTS</b>	<b>10,317</b>

# COMMUNICATIONS

The Park County Sheriff's Office Communications Division handles calls for the Park County Sheriff's Office, Cody Police Department, Park County Search and Rescue, Cody Regional Health Ambulance, and the Cody, Powell, Meeteetse and Clark Fire Districts. In 2018, seven total dispatchers handled 24,990 calls for service, including 7,222 calls received via the 9-1-1 emergency phone system. This equates to over 3,570 calls per dispatcher. Park County 911 dispatchers play many roles: therapist, doctor, teacher, weatherman, guidance counselor, psychologist, priest, secretary, supervisor, politician, and reporter. And few people must jump through the emotional hoops on the trip through the routine of one caller's request for a phone number, to the fear of another caller's burglary in progress, to the anger of a neighbor blocked in their drive, to the sorrow of a caller who lost their pet, to the stress of an officer's request for help, and back to the phone number request all in a five-minute time frame. But Park County dispatchers accept these responsibilities with expertise and confidence.



**PERSONNEL** - In 2018, the Park County Sheriff's Office welcomed two new dispatchers; one as a result of a resignation and the other as an added position in fiscal year 2019. Steven Charles



Aaron Long was added to the dispatch team in September as an additional dispatch position. Originally from Orland, California, Steven relocated to the Powell area in 2014 where he briefly worked with the Powell Hospital EMS. He attended Butte College in Orland, California where he studied general education before relocating to Powell. In addition to his dispatch duties, Steven volunteers with the Powell Fire Department. He is currently engaged and due to be married in November of 2020.

Also in October, Joseph Clayton Commins was hired to replace Dispatcher Josh Summers who resigned to take a position with the county's Information Technology Department. Joe is originally from Fresno, California and only recently moved to Cody in 2018 due to his fiancé attending Northwest College in Powell. Prior to moving to Cody, Joe attended Fresno City Community College where he studied computer engineering. Although currently engaged to be married, no date has been set for the wedding.




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**COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION CALLS FOR SERVICE (% Change from 2017)**

Park County Sheriff's Office	10,317	( -02.34%)
Cody Police Department	11,935	( +01.33%)
Cody Fire Department	296	( -04.82%)
Clark Fire Department	42	( -36.36%)
Powell Fire Department	228	( +02.70%)
Meeteetse Fire Department	31	( +03.33%)
Cody Regional Health Ambulance	2,118	( +06.70%)
Park County Search and Rescue	30	( +50.00%)
<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>24,990</b>	<b>( +00.12%)</b>

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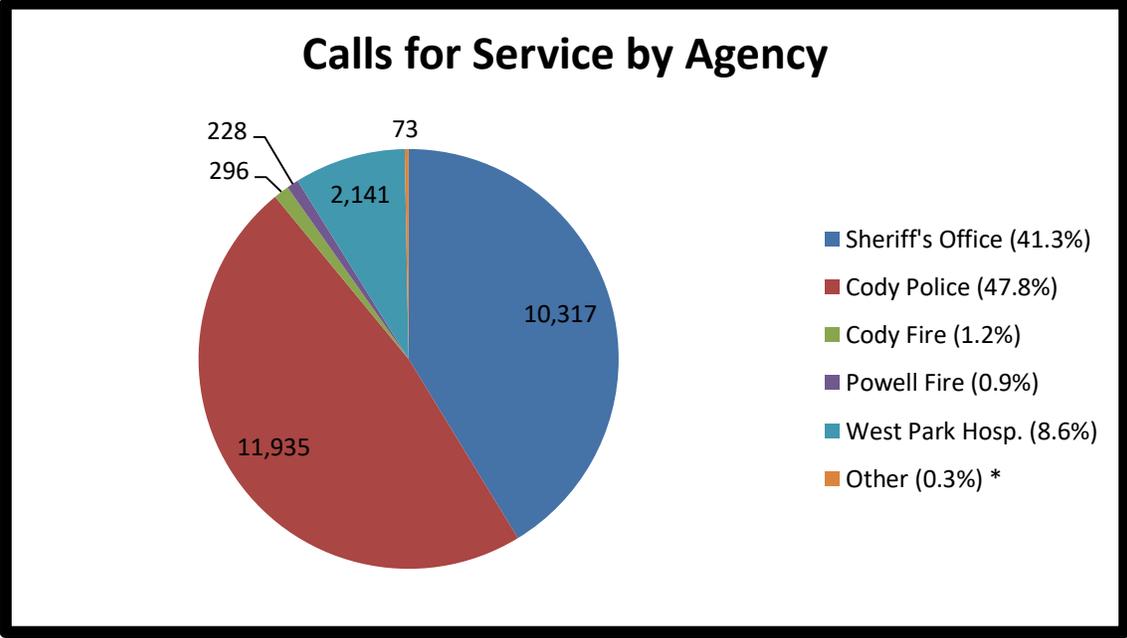
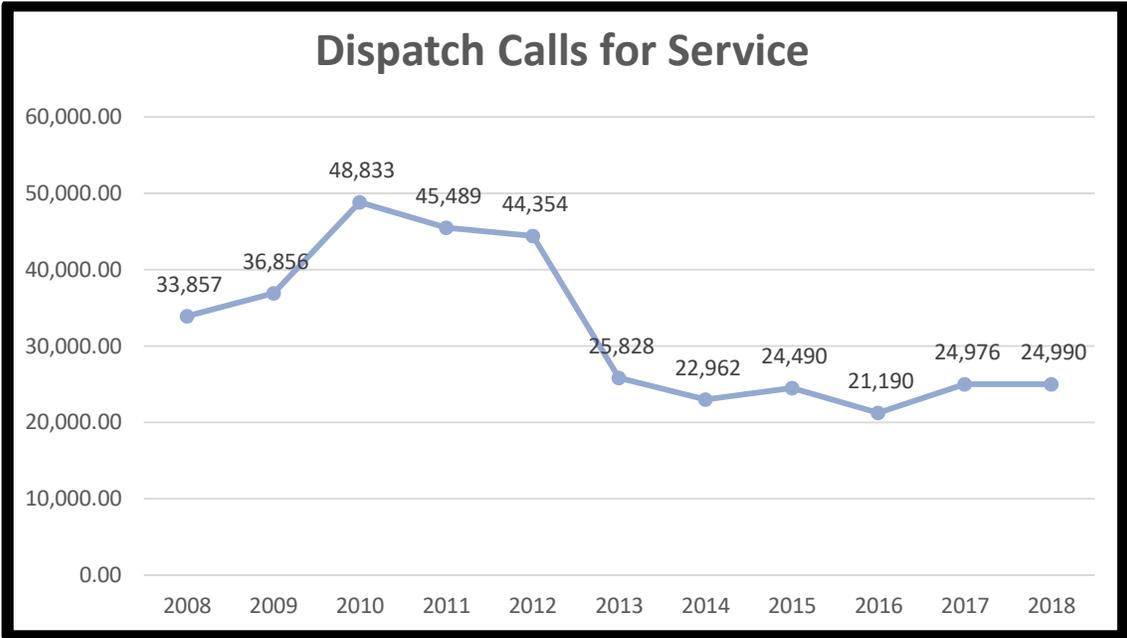
**CONTROLLED BURN PERMITS**

Total Permits Issued	3,213
Cody/Meeteetse Area	1,395
Powell/Garland/Ralston/Clark Area	1,818

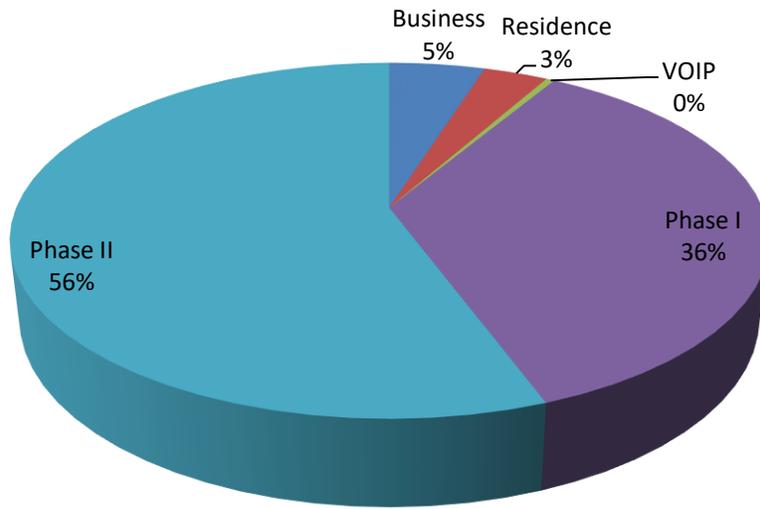
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**FIRE CALLS DISPATCHED**

Cody Fire Department	296
Clark Fire Department	42
Powell Fire Department	228
Meeteetse Fire Department	31
<b>Total Fire Calls</b>	<b>597</b>



## 911 Calls by Type of Phone Used



Phase I = Calls originating from a cellular telephone, unable to map location initially  
Phase II = Calls originating from a cellular telephone, able to map location  
Business = Call originating from a business landline, able to map location  
Residence = Call originating from a residential landline, able to map location  
VOIP = Voice Over Internet Protocol, internet-based phone service, able to map location

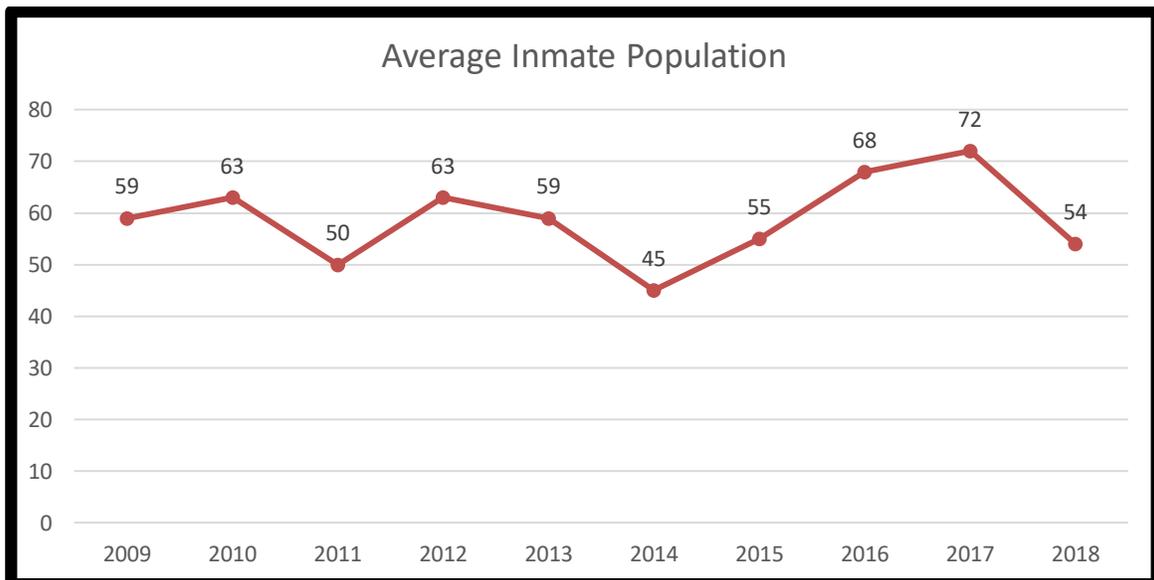
# DETENTION

In 2018, the Park County Sheriff’s Office Detention Division booked a total of 1,192 prisoners into the holding facility. This number represents an increase of 10 in total bookings from 2017. However, the average inmate population decreased from 72 in 2017 to 54 in 2018; a 25 percent decrease. It should be noted that 2017’s figure represented a 10-year high and this years figure is more in line with the 10-year average. The one-day inmate population ranged from a high of 75 to a low of 39.

## TOTAL DETENTION BOOKINGS BY YEAR (Including the percent change from previous year)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Park County Sheriff	265 (+4%)	244(-8%)	257 (+5%)	219 (-15%)	212 (-3%)
Cody Police Dept.	474 (-1%)	400 (-16%)	472 (+18%)	469 (-1%)	553 (+18%)
Powell Police Dept.	331 (+19%)	264 (-20%)	336 (+27%)	296 (-12%)	377 (+27)
Wyoming Highway Patrol	44 (-6%)	43 (-2%)	38 (-12%)	29 (-24%)	42 (+44%)
Division of Criminal Invest.	6 (-33%)	3 (-50%)	6 (+100%)	5 (-17%)	4 (-20%)
New Bookings on New Charges *	920 (+10%)	784 (-15%)	918 (+17%)	1,014 (+5%)	1,027 (+1%)
<b>Total Bookings</b>	<b>1,132 (+5%)</b>	<b>962 (-15%)</b>	<b>1,112 (+16%)</b>	<b>1,182 (+6%)</b>	<b>1,192 (+1%)</b>

\* Includes “weekender” where someone comes to serve time on weekends only.



**USE OF FORCE** - The Park County Detention Center also tracks the use of force incidents against inmates within our care and protection. These incidents are created whenever a detention deputy

has to utilize force against a non-compliant inmate. This can be in the form of compliance holds such as a wrist-lock up to and including the use of non-lethal weapons such as a Taser or pepper spray. We continually strive to keep these incidents to a minimum by providing the best possible training to our deputies in methods to mitigate situations prior to resorting to physical force. As with use of force incidents, we continually strive to minimize inmate assaults through training. All inmates who assault officers or other inmates are prosecuted under state law.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Use of Force Incidents *	13	21	19	6	14	8	11
Inmate Assaults	7	7	2	5	8	15	3

\* Force is used to gain compliance only

**PERSONNEL** - In 2018, the detention facility hired five new deputies: Deputy Nikos Chavez on March 9<sup>th</sup> (top left); Deputy Tyler Morean on June 30<sup>th</sup> (top middle); Deputy Carter Dunnam on August 3<sup>rd</sup> (top right); Deputy Sophia Macik on August 19<sup>th</sup> (bottom left); and Deputy Kris Hutchinson on September 30<sup>th</sup> (bottom middle). In addition, Lisa Louderville (bottom right) was hired as a part-time kitchen staff on April 20<sup>th</sup>. All hires were the result of resignations or reassignments. There was no increase in staffing levels.



**DETENTION SUPERVISOR HONORED** - Sgt. Virgil A. Capellen was presented with the Cody Elks Lodge Law Enforcement Deputy of the Year at their First Responders Dinner on Saturday, February 24, 2018. Sgt. Capellen has been employed with the Park County Sheriff's Detention Staff since November of 2006 and has served as a shift supervisor since July of 2009. In fact, Virgil has served more time in this position than any other sergeant. In presenting the award, Laura Laughlin, Exalted Ruler of the Cody Elks Lodge commented that "each and every day, Sgt. Capellen demonstrates strong leadership skills and serves as a stabilizing force in an otherwise unstable work



environment." Nationally, detention centers have an above average turnover rate with a typical deputy employment period of only two years. This is primarily due to the work environment, responsibilities, and resulting high stress levels which it typical in a detention facility. However, Sgt. Capellen continually projects a calm professionalism and sets the example for a young and comparatively inexperienced workforce. "Far too often it takes tragedy or a traumatic event for an officer to be recognized for service above and beyond," commented Sheriff Steward. "However, Sgt. Capellen has demonstrated that heroism and devotion to duty each and every day also deserves recognition. And I am pleased to nominate him for this award."

**REVENUE GENERATED BY THE PARK COUNTY DETENTION DIVISION \***

Jail Housing from the City of Cody	\$ 1,740.00
Fingerprint/Notary/Record fees	\$ 8,355.56
Inmate Phone system	\$15,834.40
Medical Reimbursement	\$ 4,147.53
Court Restitution	<u>\$11,242.63</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,320.12</b>

\* All revenues are returned to the Park County General Fund

# SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Park County Search and Rescue Unit (SAR) is comprised of 25 to 30 volunteers, from all walks of life who are ready at a moment's notice to selflessly sacrifice their time and put



themselves in harm's way to serve the citizens of Park County. They are trained in various skills including but not limited to first aid and CPR, wilderness search, aircraft search, urban rescue, swift water and ice rescue, mountain rescue, canine search, avalanche search, land navigation and critical incident stress management. In 2018, SAR participated in 27 calls for service, a 69% increase

from 2017 (2017 was an unusually low year for call outs). These included several high-profile rescues and recoveries.

**IN MEMORIUM** - Tragically, on Sunday, May 27, 2018, a 20-year veteran of the Park County Search and Rescue died while kayaking on Rock Creek approximately 10 miles south of Red Lodge, Montana. Edward (Ed) Thomas Conning, age 65 of Cody, was kayaking with friends when he became trapped beneath a submerged log in Rock Creek at 1:10 p.m. approximately one mile south of the Lion's Club Camp. Ed's kayaking partner made it to shore and immediately began efforts to free him from beneath the log. After approximately 10 minutes, he realized he was not going to be able to free Ed by himself. He then summoned a second kayaker that was waiting downstream for them. Together, they were able to free Ed but were unable to get him to shore. He and his kayak then floated



further downstream. His body was eventually recovered by members of the Carbon County Search and Rescue approximately a mile downstream at 4:13 p.m. Ed was a valued member of Park County Search and Rescue; serving our citizens and visitors as a volunteer since 1997. He was the leader of the swift-water rescue team and an experienced high-angle rope rescue technician. He served as a mentor to new SAR members and chaired the Training Committee. Sheriff Steward commented that Ed was a "water dog" and could always be found in or near the water. "We here at the sheriff's office and Search and Rescue are currently grieving the loss of our friend. But the

community has also lost a caring and compassionate public servant. However, there is some comfort for all of us in knowing that Ed passed away doing what he loved.”

**NOTEABLE MISSIONS** – On Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, a 16-year old juvenile male had to be rescued from the Shoshone River north of the Corbett Bridge after the raft in which he was riding missed the “take out” ramp under the bridge and continued downriver towards the Corbett Dam. The



initial call came into the Park County Sheriff’s 911 Communications Center at 2:20 p.m. reporting that there were three people from the raft in the water downriver from the “take out”. Search and Rescue (SAR) were immediately mobilized and deployed their swift-water rescue team to the area. Upon arrival, SAR discovered that there were indeed three people in the raft when it initially missed the ramp.

All three of those occupants jumped from the raft into the river. A female was immediately assisted to shore by bystanders. Another male occupant held onto the raft as it went downriver and was eventually able to paddle it to shore by hand. However, the third juvenile victim continued downriver for approximately one-half mile, before grabbing onto a tree that was sticking out of the unusually high water. The victim clung to the tree until SAR was able to reach him with their pontoon boats and evacuate him to shore. He was taken to Cody Regional Health by ambulance for treatment of some minor cuts and bruises.

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, a 24-year-old Cody man was rescued from the Shoshone River just east of the Cody City Shop near the end of 19th Street. The Park County 911 Dispatch Center received a 911 call at 2:55 a.m. but there was no one on the line. The dispatcher reportedly only heard rushing water.

The call mapped to an area on the Shoshone River near the oxidation ponds approximately a third of a mile downriver from the Belfry Bridge. A Cody Police officer was immediately dispatched to the area. Upon arrival, he observed a 2003 Dodge pickup truck in the river with its tail lights



sticking out of the water. He also heard someone calling for help. Park County Search and Rescue, Cody Fire and an ambulance from Cody Regional Health were dispatched to the scene. Apparently the victim, for reasons unknown, had driven into the river from his residence at the Rivers Bend Trailer Park and floated downriver. When his truck began to submerge, he exited the vehicle and was able to make it to a small sandbar approximately a half mile from the trailer park. A swift-water team from Search and Rescue deployed on the river at 3:55 a.m. in their pontoon boats. They were able to reach the victim and safely evacuate him to shore at 4:05 a.m. He was taken to Cody Regional Health where he was treated for exposure.

On Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, Park County Search and Rescue responded to an overturned raft on the Shoshone River near the Bureau of Reclamation access road in the Shoshone Canyon. The initial call came into the Park County Sheriff's 911 Communications Center at 1:34 p.m. reporting that small inflatable raft had "flipped" and there were four people missing. Park County Sheriff's



deputies immediately responded to the scene along with a Search and Rescue (SAR) ground team and swift-water rescue team. Upon arrival, deputies discovered that there were originally five people in the raft when it overturned. One victim was able to immediately make it to shore and call for help. The other four occupants floated

downriver and were unaccounted for when deputies and SAR arrived. They immediately began a search of the shoreline downriver. Eventually, all four subjects were located on shore. Two of the victims were on the south side of the river east of the Shoshone River siphon. The other two victims were approximately 200 yards further downstream on the north side. None of the victims were able to climb out of the canyon from their positions due to the steep rocky terrain. A ground team from SAR was able to reach two of the victims and guide them up and over the rugged terrain to an established trail further up the hillside. The remaining victims were evacuated to the north shore by the SAR swift-water team using a pontoon boat. All victims were wearing life jackets and were treated for minor cuts and scrapes at the scene by medical personnel from Cody Regional Health.

On Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, a 48-year old Colorado woman was safely evacuated from the northern end of Beauty Lake in the Beartooth Mountains after she fell while hiking and suffered an apparent broken ankle. The victim was hiking with some friends when the accident happened. The initial



call came into the Park County Sheriff's 911 Communications Center at 11:52 a.m. reporting that a female had fallen and suffered a broken ankle on the Beartooth Lake Trail approximately two and one half miles north of the trailhead and could not walk out on her own. Search and Rescue (SAR) was immediately mobilized and deployed a ground team to the area. They were accompanied by a wilderness medical team from Cody Regional Health. The

victim's exact location was determined to be near the junction of the Beartooth Lake and Island Lake trails. SAR made the decision to hike in from the Island Lake side due to the more moderate terrain on that trail. In addition to save time and effort, SAR deployed an inflatable Zodiac rescue boat to shuttle across Island Lake before hiking in to the victim. At 3:20 p.m., the wilderness medical team who had gone ahead, reported a boar grizzly bear on the trail approximately ¼ mile from the victim. As the bear wandered off the trail, the wilderness team continued on and was able to reach the victim to begin treatment at 3:45 p.m. SAR then arrived 30 minutes later with a wheeled stretcher in order to evacuate her. The grizzly bear stayed within 100 yards of the scene the entire time as the victim was packaged for transport. At approximately 7:00 p.m., the team was able to bring her to a waiting ambulance with help from several Shoshone Forest employees. She was then transported to Cody Regional Health.

On Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m., SAR responded to the Shoshone Lodge, 349 North Fork Highway for reports of a hiker near the summit of Crow Peak whose foot had become pinned beneath a boulder. The 59-year-old victim was hiking alone when the accident happened. He was attempting to summit Crow Peak, when he placed his hand on a large boulder for leverage while climbing and it became dislodged, toppling over onto his foot. It was estimated to weigh several hundred pounds. Luckily, the victim had a radio given to him by lodge employees and he was able to call for help. SAR responded to the lodge and deployed a ground team using horses provided

by the lodge. Before they could reach the victim, several lodge wranglers who had started up the mountain earlier were able to reach him and free his foot. But due to the extent of his injuries, they could not move him. The SAR ground team arrived shortly thereafter and assisted in stabilizing the injury. A medical helicopter was summoned to the scene but could not find a suitable landing zone near enough to Fulkerson for evacuation. Due to the steep terrain at the scene, it was decided that the safest way to evacuate the victim was to request a “short haul” helicopter from Tip Top Search and Rescue out of Sublette County. “Short haul” involves a rescuer being lowered on a rope from a hovering helicopter, to a victim below. Tip Top was able to insert their personnel via short haul, hook onto the victim, and lift him off of the mountain. He was lowered to a waiting ambulance and taken to Cody Regional Health.



Also on September 9th at 3:42 p.m., the Sheriff’s Dispatch received a call for help from a female at the Top of the World Store, 2823 Highway 212. She reported that while hiking the Muddy Creek Trail, she came upon two frantic backpackers that reported their companion had been



mauled by a grizzly bear two hours earlier in the area of Granite Lake. The victim was backpacking with three friends when the attack took place. Two of his companions hiked out to get help while a third stayed behind with him. He was suffering from severe injuries to his arm, shoulder, and back. SAR pulled several members from the Crow Peak Rescue to mobilize and

respond to the Granite Lake area. Because the exact location of the victim was unknown, SAR launched its fixed-wing search aircraft to search the Granite Lake area from the air. At the same time, a second medical helicopter was requested. Both the medical helicopter and the SAR aircraft arrived on scene at the same time and was quickly able to locate the victim. However, the only suitable landing zone was approximately a mile from the victim. The helicopter made the decision

to land and have their medics hike in to the victim. They were able to stabilize his injuries and carry him to the helicopter. He was then flown to St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings. But, because of the limited space on the helicopter, they were forced to leave the victim's companion behind at Granite Lake. Night was approaching and the second subject was unwilling to walk out in the dark, fearing he would become disoriented. A ground team from SAR, aided by a Wyoming Game and Fish warden deployed at 7:00 p.m. from the Muddy Creek Trailhead to guide him out. After 7 hours, the team was able to evacuate the subject from the area. They returned to the trailhead at 2:15 a.m., Monday morning.

On October 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 p.m., Search and Rescue was activated to assist with a motor vehicle crash at mile marker 25 on Highway 296 – Chief Joseph Highway – Dead Indian Hill. A large



construction dump truck that was hauling dirt to a “slide repair area” had lost control and plunged some 250 feet off a cliff and down into Dead Indian Creek. Two SAR ground teams responded to perform a steep angle evacuation of the driver fatality. Two members of the high-angle team rappelled down the cliffs to reach the crash site. At

2:30 a.m., they were able to evacuate the victim's body by using a power winch up the steep cliffs. He was then released to the county coroner.

On Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m., the Park County Sheriff's 911 Dispatch Center received a report of a 46-year-old Cody man that had been thrown from his horse in the Horse Creek draining approximately five (5) miles north of the trailhead. The victim who was riding with a companion when the accident occurred, was complaining of back pain, shortness of breath and nausea. SAR was immediately mobilized and deployed two ground teams to the trailhead. They were accompanied by a wilderness medical team from Cody Regional Health. Due to the terrain and inclement weather at the time, a medical helicopter was not an option for evacuation. The ground



teams therefore hiked in and were able to reach the victim at approximately 11:30 p.m. Members of the Wilderness Medical Team with the assistance of an emergency room doctor who was also on scene (SAR member), stabilized the victim and began an attempt to evacuate him. However, due to night conditions, the inclement weather and the extreme ruggedness of the terrain, it was determined that a safe evacuation was impossible at that time. The decision was made to spend the night with victim and make him comfortable until morning. Processes were then implemented to summon a Blackhawk helicopter from the Wyoming Army National Guard out of Cheyenne to “short haul” the victim out at first light. At 8:00 a.m. on Sunday morning, the Blackhawk arrived on scene and lowered an army medic down to him. He was then packaged in a transport litter and raised up to the helicopter along with the medic. The victim was then transported to Cody Regional Health.

**TRAINING** - The purpose of Park County Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue Unit is to organize for, plan for, train for, maintain equipment for, and respond to incidents requiring search and rescue



assistance as requested, directed, and authorized by the Sheriff of Park County, Wyoming. This is accomplished in three ways: 1) By identifying hazardous areas, activities or situations and assisting in education of the public about these hazards and ways to avoid or minimize them thereby eliminating or minimizing the hazards if practical; 2) By training all SAR team members in basic search and rescue

skills and training special teams for more technically demanding emergencies; and 3) By responding to calls for assistance in searching for lost or missing persons and rescuing persons in distress within the training and performance capabilities of the members. SAR teams also assist the local law enforcement, emergency management, volunteer fire departments and ambulance services when extra help is needed with logistical support or medical/rescue services during serious incidents.

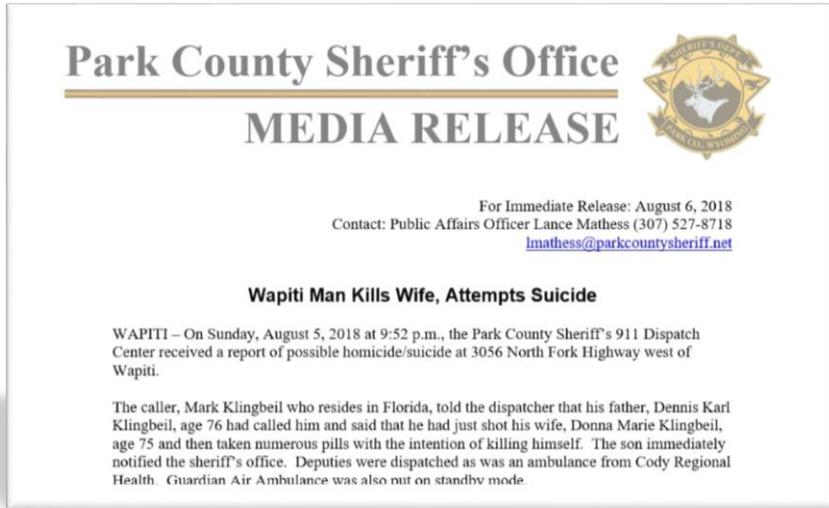


**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** – SAR also participates in numerous community outreach events throughout the year. By participating in health fairs, high school mentoring, pre-school programs, and other various community interactions, Search and Rescue can better educate and serve the citizens of Park County to the level that has become the norm.



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS** - In 2018, the Park County Sheriff's Public Affairs Office remained active in promoting positive relations with the media and coordinate community involvement through proactive program implementation all while maintaining the goals and objectives of the



department. There were a total of 41 media releases issued during the year on a variety of topics including 30 news-related media bulletins. In addition, 5 safety-related media releases were issued on a variety of topics including bear and fire safety, fraud awareness and prom safety

advice. There were also 6 media releases of an informational nature. These include information on new personnel, new technology or how to avoid being the victim of a crime.

**FACEBOOK & TWITTER** - The Park County Sheriff's Office continued to utilize social media in 2018 to communicate directly with residents through the use of its Facebook page and Twitter

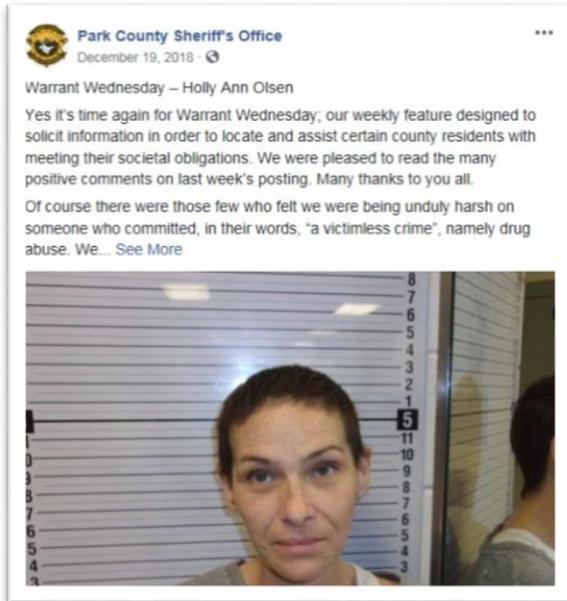
account. These social medium are used to inform and engage the residents of Park County on a variety of topics. Safety messages, emergency bulletins, and agency information are included, but also the accounts



are used to distribute information on incidents reported to the sheriff's office that may be of interest to our residents. The intent is to proactively distribute

information that is both informative and safety-oriented in content and when necessary, ask for assistance from residents in emergency situations. We are extremely pleased with the popularity of these accounts. In 2018, the Facebook page grew from nearly 5,800 followers to over 8,000. Several postings received tens of thousands of “hits” nationally.

Also in 2018, utilizing Facebook the Park County Sheriff’s Office implemented a weekly feature



titled “Warrant Wednesday.” Each Wednesday, a current fugitive with an outstanding warrant from either District, Circuit or Municipal Court is featured on the page in an attempt to either locate the suspect or encourage them to voluntarily surrender or do what is necessary to clear their warrant(s). These post are infused with a subtle humor that is designed to increase circulation of the posts and thereby increase community awareness. The first several posts garnered over 30,000 “hits” and over 250 “shares.” The location of each suspect featured on the posts was

determined thanks to information obtained from the community which speaks to the success of the program.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH** – The Community Outreach Program insures that the Park County Sheriff’s Office is active in programs designed to serve the needs of county residents while promoting a positive image for department personnel. Examples of these efforts in 2018 included the department’s participation in the annual 4th of July parade. Sheriff Steward also participated in the Park County Special Olympics program benefitting developmentally disabled children by awarding participants medals for their efforts during the games. The Sheriff’s Office also participated in the



annual Halloween walk in downtown Cody where deputies were on hand to pass out candy. Also, in 2018, we participated in several high school “career days” by allowing students to ride with deputies and Search and Rescue. And we had numerous speaking engagements and tours of the law enforcement center by Cub Scout groups and preschoolers.

**SHOP WITH A COP** – On Monday evening, December 11th, twenty law enforcement officers from all over the Big Horn Basin participated in the “Shop with a Cop” program at the Cody



Walmart. “Shop with a Cop” provides a fun filled day of shopping for children in need throughout the basin while at the same time creating a positive relationship between the child and law enforcement that hopefully will last throughout their lives. Officers from the Wyoming Highway Patrol, Park County Sheriff, Big Horn County Sheriff, Cody Police, Powell Police, and Lovell Police

Departments participated in the event. It was organized by retired Trooper Rodney Miears of the Wyoming Highway Patrol. Each officer was paired with a child selected by their respective school



jurisdictions. Using donations from Walmart and some private donors, they embarked on a Christmas shopping spree. They were also assisted by Walmart associates. The children were permitted to shop for their family as well as themselves. It was up to them. After the shopping, the children and their “partner for the day” returned to the Cody Law Enforcement Center

where they wrapped their gifts and enjoyed a pizza party provided by Papa Murphy’s with gift wrapping supplies provided by Bomgaars.

**KIDPRINT-ID** – In 2018, the Park County Sheriff’s Office implemented a new child safety program titled “Kidprint-ID.” Kidprint-ID, which involves the creation of a child identification card, is a simple yet effective tool to help families maintain a current image of and descriptive information about their children. “One of the most important and effective tools for law enforcement when searching for a missing child is an up-to-date, good quality photo along with

the child's descriptive information," commented Sheriff Scott Steward. "Kidprint-ID accomplishes both." The Kidprint-ID cards are provided at no cost to parents in order to enhance their ability to quickly provide law enforcement essential information immediately if the need ever arises. And they're fun for the kids too! The information displayed on the card includes the child's name, date of birth, height, weight, hair, and eye color along with a picture and thumb print. Once created, the card will be printed immediately on site and sent home for parents to keep. The information is not stored or maintained, but rather is deleted upon the card being generated. And parents are encouraged to obtain a new card for their child as often as necessary to ensure the most up-to-date information. The sheriff's office offers this service to parents on a set schedule on the first Thursday of every month at the sheriff's office. Special arrangements may also be made for groups of children by contacting the sheriff's office ahead of time to schedule.



